

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 9-18 are pending in this application. Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 11-18 as follows:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A search broker for searching for a service server providing an element service, for selecting and carrying out the element service in a next stage organized in a hierarchical structure for providing an element service, said search broker being connected to a client for requesting a service, a server for providing more than two element services for providing a composite service structured hierarchically, a policy database for retaining policy information about a service requested by said client, and a registry for holding contents of service provided by said servers, said search broker, comprising:

a search request receiving part for receiving a search for a service;

a policy inquiry part for inquiring said policy database for policy information of said client requesting the service, and obtaining the policy information from said policy database;

a registry search part for requesting a search for a service matching with a service concerned with said search request and obtaining information indicating the server matching with said service from said registry;

a policy extracting part for extracting the server matching with the policy information of the client; and

a search result transmitting part for transmitting the information indicating the server extracted by said policy extracting part to a source of requesting the service.

10. (Previously Presented) A search broker according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an additional information database for storing additional information about contents of service provided by said server; and an additional information search part for obtaining the additional information about a server matching with said requested service from said additional information database,

wherein said policy extracting part, in reference to said additional information about a server obtained by said additional information search part, among servers

related to the information obtained by said registry search part, extracts the server matching with the policy information of the client obtained by said policy inquiry part.

11. (New) A search system, comprising:

a search broker for searching for a service server providing an element service, for selecting and carrying out an element service in a next stage organized in a hierarchical structure from a group of element service server for providing the element service, and the search broker being connected to a client for requesting a composite service;

a portal server for serving as a portal of the composite service;

a group of service servers for providing more than two element services organized in a hierarchical structure for providing a composite service;

a policy database for holding policy information about service contents requested by the client, the policy database being connected to a policy management server;

a registry management server for holding contents of element service provided by the service servers, the registry management server being connected with a registry database, wherein

the search broker searches for a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request, and inquires policy information from policy management server,

the policy management server extracts the policy information from the policy database and send the extracted policy information to the search broker, and

the search broker inquires from the registry management server information regarding a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request, extracts from the registry database the information regarding a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request, and sends to the search broker the information regarding a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request,

wherein the portal server

receives a request of the composite service from client,

requests the search broker to search for a service server matching with element

service in a next stage structuring the composite service,

obtains information about a service server matching with element service in the next stage structuring the requested composite service from the search broker, and

requests the element service from the server, and

wherein the server which receives the service from the portal server

requests a search for the server matching with the element service in the next stage structuring the requested element service to the search broker,

obtains information about the service server matching with the requested element service from the search broker,

requests the element service to the service server matching with the requested element service, and

carries out a request for the element service in the next stage.

12. (New) A search system according to Claim 11,

wherein the search broker includes an additional information database storing additional information related to a service provided by the service server,

wherein the search broker obtains additional information of the service server matching with the requested service from the additional information database, and

wherein the search broker extracting the service server matching with the policy information of the client among service servers relating to the information, in reference with the additional information of the server.

13. (New) A search system, comprising:

a search broker for searching for a service server providing an element service, for selecting and carrying out an element service in a next stage organized in a hierarchical structure from a group of element service server for providing the element service, and the search broker being connected to a client for requesting a composite service;

a portal server for serving as a portal of the composite service;

a group of service servers for providing more than two element services organized in a hierarchical structure for providing a composite service;

a policy database for holding policy information about service contents requested by the client, the policy database being connected to a policy management

server;

a registry management server for holding contents of element service provided by the service servers, the registry management server being connected with a registry database,

wherein the portal server receives a request of the composite service from the client,

wherein the portal server requests the search broker to search for a server matching with the element service in the next stage structuring the requested composite service,

wherein the portal server obtains information about a server matching with element service in a next stage structuring the requested composite service from the search broker, and requests the element service from the server; and

wherein the server which received the service from the portal server, requests a search of the server matching with the element service in the next stage structuring the requested element service to the search broker, obtains information about the server matching with the requested element service from the search broker, requests the element service to the server, and carries out a request for the element service in the next stage in a similar method that the portal server does.

14. (New) A search system according to Claim 11,

wherein the portal includes a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a service server in a lower layer,

wherein the service server includes a server policy database for storing information for selecting a server in the lower layer,

wherein the portal server extracts a service server conforming to policy information of the portal server policy database among the obtained service servers matching with the requested service, and requests the service for the extracted service server, and

wherein the server which received the service from the portal server extracts a service server conforming to the policy information server policy database among service servers obtained as matching with the requested service, and requests the extracted server to provide the requested service.

15. (New) A search system according to Claim 11,
wherein the portal server includes a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a server in a lower layer,
wherein the portal server receives from the server which requested the service a result of the service and information for evaluating the service, and
wherein on the basis of information for evaluating the service, evaluation by the client of the service provided by the server is reflected in the portal server policy database.
16. (New) A search system according to Claim 13,
wherein on the basis of a result of comparison between reliability being set for the client and a predetermined standard value, the portal server determines whether to automatically reflect the evaluation of the server's service in the portal server policy database or to inquire from an operator if the evaluation of the server's service will be reflected in the portal server policy database.
17. (New) A search system according to Claim 11,
wherein the server includes a server policy database for storing information for selecting a server in a lower layer, and sending information for evaluating the server with a result of service of which request is received in the third or fourth step to a source of the service request, and
wherein on the basis of information for evaluating the service, among evaluations of service of the server carried out by the client, the evaluation of the service of the server in the lower layer is reflected to the server policy database.
18. (New) A search system according to Claim 15, wherein on the basis of a result of evaluation between a reliability value set for the client and a predetermined reference value, the server determines whether to automatically reflect the evaluation of the service in the portal server policy database or to inquire from an operator if the evaluation of the server's service will be reflected in the portal server policy database.